

ON THE RIGHT TRACK



NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | AUTUMN 2011

From the horse's mouth...



Please send any articles, reports, hints, tips, suggestions, etc. to sheena@creativemarketingsolutions.co.uk

WILLIAM'S THINK TANK

Alternative uses

I expect we all have different reasons for having our ponies, apart from the fact we just can't help ourselves; for me it's relaxation, for others it may be the excitement of competition, the thrill of breeding and showing, the adventure of finding a new ride to do or simply the pleasure of seeing them in the field. There are many things that we can do, plan to do or just dream of doing, but what about the possibilities of your fields and stables and livery yards. I have just read the BHS regional news letter where a posh gazebo was used for the BBQ inspiring lots of thoughts on how it could be used as a stable when away from home, obviously some very imaginative people there.

Sheena keeps geese as well as ponies in her field. She made good use of her trailer this summer when she didn't have time to use it for horse transportation by turning it into a gosling house (not sure what the technical term is for one of those). For a few weeks it provided a safe and roomy home for two abandoned goslings, now growing well and out in the field with the others. She also made use of her field as a birthday party venue (removing ponies first of course). Unfortunately I was on holiday and missed that, but have heard it was a very good party.

I did, however, manage to enjoy the fun day held at Green Hall Stables in aid of the Air Ambulance. The ponies were given a day off while the whole yard was put to alternative use. The office became the kitchen, with endless cups of tea being made to go with the lovely scones and jam. Stables became 'stalls' - table top sale, tombola, cakes and raffle; the big blue wheelbarrow became a duck pond, with lots of keen duck hunters trying to catch the elusive winning yellow duck.

Straw bales made very comfy seats and, most of exciting of all; the ménage became a fun playground with bouncy castle, giant slide and obstacle course. Annoyingly I was told I was too old to play on that, Rachel was manning the gate, letting children in and keeping adults out. Sometimes life just isn't fair! I did try the tombola, raffle and name the pony, trying to win one of the fabulous cakes in the shape of a horse's head that someone had made. All with no success whatsoever, but I would say that sampling the scones was a great success, as was the whole day, being a great community event and raising £1,118. Well done to everyone involved.



AUGUST AUSTWICK RIDE

Kath Richardson and Blossom of both Craven and North Lancs Bridleways led a super ride around Austwick in the middle of August.

Given the fact that the summer has hardly been one of uninterrupted sunshine we were really lucky with the weather and only got mizzled upon once. (Misty drizzle, not in the dictionary!)

We met in a wonderful car park opposite the Helwith Bridge pub, just outside Settle, off the Stainforth Road. (Post code BD24 0EH.) The car park was wonderful because it had plenty of space to drive in a big arc and so avoid having to do the jiggery pokery that is trailer reversing. A very good start to the day.

Twelve of us had booked to do the ride and apart from one person coming from miles away, we all arrived in good time. There was plenty of space to tack up and potter about and once Kath had arranged to meet the latecomer en route, we were ready to set off. There were two women riding very beautiful, aristocratic looking young horses. Although they looked like a handful their riders hoped it would be good education. Well - I don't know about anyone else, but the thought of trying to keep Jake, who is usually pretty laid back, calm around skittery, leaping youngsters was more than I had bargained for. We jiggled and jostled our way to the road, all trying to be serene and un-fazed until suddenly the youngest beauty leapt sideways with an action worthy of a gazelle and its rider decided that enough was enough. I think we all heaved a sigh of relief when they decided not to join in - but I certainly take my hat off to people who are brave enough to deal with such spirited creatures.



Kath and Blossom admiring the scenery on a ride near Ribbleshead

The ride was perfect. Loads of lovely bridle paths and fantastic, rolling scenery criss crossed with dry stone walls. The paths and tracks around Austwick and Wharfe are quite stoney but well used and very accessible. The roads are nice and quiet and for the most part it is possible to see over the walls and so be quickly aware of any traffic. We did a loop through Wharfe and then out to Feizor. For the record, Feizor has an excellent tea shop and it is possible to sit on the wall, drink coffee and keep hold of your horse. We didn't stop this time though as there were rather too many of us. From Feizor we headed out onto the fell and some of us had a good fast canter across and back. Jake and I didn't because I am a wuss and he is never very careful where he puts his feet.

We had one more bit of excitement as we were on home straight. Riding past a farm, through open moorland, two horses wearing rugs began to hightail along behind the wall only to emerge unexpectedly, right beside us all spiky and prancing through an open gate.

There was a momentary pause as we all considered the worse outcome - but then Kath, Blossom and others took charge and we were able to get smartly through the next gate whilst the loose horses were encouraged to stay put by our riders on beautifully behaved, sensible horses. One chap was riding Western style. His mare was incredibly biddable and seemed almost to read his mind. She swung along with a relaxed, easy gait and Frank was equally relaxed holding a neck rein, comfortably chilling on an immaculate, deep seated Western saddle. Neither turned a hair at prancing horses - all in a days work!

All in all an excellent day. I can't tell you how many miles we did, but we must have been out for three or more hours. It is an area well worth exploring and with the added plus of spacious parking I would really recommend it.

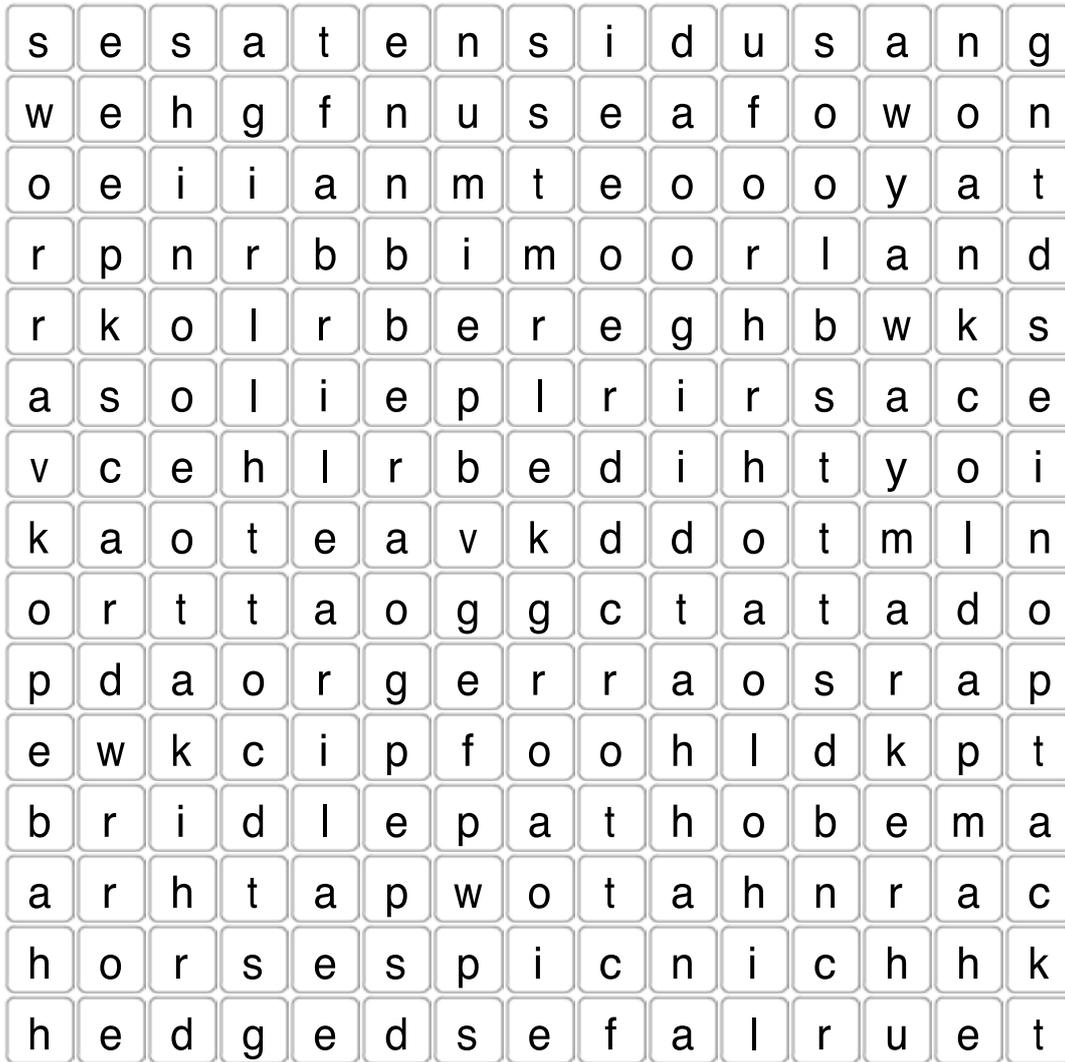
Thanks Kath, it was great. Looking forward to next time.

SHEENA AND JAKE

Directions

1. Turn left out of car park and follow road until you come to some railings on your left and a lane in front of you. The sign says 'Private road, public footpath and bridleway only'. Take this lane into Wharfe.
2. Follow the lane through Wharfe, ignoring tracks to the left. **DO NOT TAKE THE FIRST BRIDLEWAY ON YOUR RIGHT**, but carry on down the lane. Bear right and then take the right turn onto the bridleway next to 'Garth Cottage'. Follow this track up the hill, through the 'Wash Tubs' water and on until you reach the T-junction.
3. At the T junction turn left.
4. At the cross roads (tarmac road and bridleway) turn left onto bridleway and ride down the hill until you join the road.
5. Turn right towards Austwick.
6. Turn left at the barn before the playing fields and tennis courts onto the bridleway. Signpost: BW to Feizor 1¼
7. Follow the track (through the water) and straight(ish) / right at the crossroads up the hill towards Wood House. The track narrows and you will come to a barn on your right where the track forks. Take the left track into Feizor.
8. When you meet the road in Feizor turn left and then before the cobbled ford in the road, turn right up the stony track. Go through the gate into the large open field. You can have a canter up this field. **Look out for the signpost indicating 'Bridleway to Buckhaw Brow'**.
9. Take this bridleway path to your right and go through the gate (with a sheep pen on the left through the gate). **Follow the wall round to the right** (this is not part of the bridleway, but we have permission to cross this field and it's a good place for a canter) until you come across a gate into a grassy lane.
10. At the end of the lane turn right onto the tarmac road. Follow road back into Feizor (bear right at junction above Rawlinshaw) and go straight through Feizor until you reach a gate.
11. Continue through gate and follow track through gates until you reach Bark House Farm (2nd house). Go through farmyard and follow lane down until you join the road again.
12. Turn right and follow road back to car park.

Bridlepaths wordsearch



WORDS TO FIND:

arrows,
blackberries,
bridge,
bridlepath,
gallop, gates,
hat, hedge, hoof,
pick, horses,
knife, moorland,
overgrown,
padlock,
picnic, ponies,
prohibited, road,
saddlebags,
shoes, sunblock,
tack, tow path,
waterproofs,
way marker.

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

We are working for all riders in the area.
You will benefit. Please support us!
The membership fee is only £5 per year

To play an active part in the Society brings with it new friends and a chance to participate in many pleasure rides and social activities and a real sense of achievement in promoting safer riding for yourself and others. Even if you do not wish to play an active part in the Society your membership fee helps to provide safer riding facilities in our area for everyone.

Please join now by filling in the following form and returning it to the NLBS Membership Secretary:

ADELE MCLOUGHLIN

Bramble Byre, Howbarrow, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria
LA11 7SS email: carmel645@btinternet.com call: 015395 36649

KATE LENNOX

Brandywell, Cark-in-Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands
e-mail: kate.lennox@talktalk.net

Cheques should be made payable to: North Lancashire Bridleways Society

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL [OPTIONAL]:

Please tick here if you are happy to receive minutes of meetings by email

I enclose my membership fee of £5

SIGNATURE: _____